



CONNECTICUT REPUBLICAN ASSEMBLY

41 Crossroads Plaza, PMB 270
West Hartford, CT 06117

March 15, 2019

Testimony IN OPPOSITION OF - AN ACT CONCERNING MUNICIPAL AND REGIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND EFFICIENCIES

Dear Chairmen McCarthy-Vehey, and Cassano, Vice Chairs Champagne and Zawistowski, and Members of the Planning and Development Committee,

Governor Ned Lamont's budget bill for 2019 is another disconcerting regionalization bill, and bill to add additional layers to our current government. This will not improve our state municipalities nor regions.

My main concern since 2012 has been public education. Our public school children school districts' are receiving exponentially more funds, and yet the NAEP and ACT scores continue a downward trend. ***Statutorily, Common Core "Pilot Study" has lapsed as of June 30, 2019.*** Public school assessments such as Smarter Balanced Assessments, which lack external validation therefore the test credibility is in question, and SAT's for 11th graders, which also have some questions as to its credibility especially post Varsity Blue indictments, are costing the CT taxpayers millions of dollars --- \$10 MIL a year for invalid testing. This should be cut from the budget; a moratorium should be put on the SBAC and SAT for the next fiscal year. Common Core's band-aid, Scientific Research Based Interventions or SRBI, have increased our Special Education costs dramatically. This would improve education for all.

Clearly, the statement heard most since the 2019 session began is that CT has a spending problem, which needs to be remedied. This would effectively improve the state of CT, and not the creation of another study group.

Finally, our elected representatives should read the CT Constitution to see where "improving municipalities" or "regions" exists -- It simply does not. Please vote NO on this bill.

Sincerely,

Anne Manusky, M.Ed., LPC
First Vice President, CTRA
Easton, CT

CT Constitution. <https://www.cga.ct.gov/asp/Content/constitutions/CTConstitution.htm>.

